3   a character input device comprising a plurality of character input devices,

4   each character input device having a first value, and at least a

5   subset of the character input devices having a second value;

6   a buffer, coupled to the character input device, for storing a keystroke se-

7   quence entered on the character input device, the keystroke se-

8   quence comprising at least one keystroke;

9   a string handler, coupled to the buffer, for determining whether the key-

10   stroke sequence produces a valid result in a first context and for

11   determining whether all of the keystrokes are valid in a second

12   context;

13   an output device, coupled to the string handler, for:

14   responsive to the keystroke sequence producing a valid result in

15   the first context, outputting first feedback, the first feed-

16   back indicating keystroke input according to the first

17   context; and

18   responsive to the keystroke sequence producing a valid result in

19   the second context, outputting second feedback concur-

20   rently with the first feedback, the second feedback indi-

21   cating keystroke input according to the second context.

1   83. The system of claim 82, wherein:

2   the output device comprises a display screen;

3   the character input device comprises a keyboard; and

4   each character input device element comprises a key.

1   84. The system of claim 83, wherein the display screen outputs the first

2 visual feedback at a first location and outputs the second visual feedback at a sec-

3 ond location.

1   85. The system of claim 82, wherein the first context comprises accepting

2 input for an iterative directory filtering operation on a plurality of directory re-

3 cords.

1   86. The system of claim 82, wherein at least one of the contexts comprises

2 accepting input for a direct entry operation.

1   87. The system of claim 86, wherein the first context comprises accepting

2 input for a direct entry operation.

1   88. The system of claim 87, wherein the direct entry operation comprises a

2 telephone number direct entry operation.

1   89. The system of claim 82, wherein the first context comprises accepting

2 input for a directory filtering operation, and the second context comprises

3 accepting input for a direct entry operation.

1   90. A system for concurrently accepting parameters in at least two con-

2   texts, the system comprising:

3   a character input device, for accepting a keystroke;

4   a buffer, coupled to the character input device, for initiating a first string

5   and for appending a first value of the keystroke to the first

6   string;

7   a string handler, coupled to the buffer, for determining whether all values

8   in the first string can be converted to valid numeric values;

9   a numeric string generator, coupled to the string handler, for, responsive

10   to all values in the first string being convertible to valid numeric

11   values, generating a numeric string corresponding to the first

12   string;

13   a directory lookup engine, coupled to the string handler, for, determining

14   whether any directory records match the first string; and

15   an output device, coupled to the numeric string generator and to the di-

16   rectory lookup engine, for:

17   responsive to at least one directory record matching the first

18   string, outputting first feedback comprising a list of the at

19   least one directory record matching the first string; and

20   responsive to no directory records matching the first string and

21   all values in the first string being convertible to valid